

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 1. (currently amended) A locking element for holding
2 together threaded parts such as screws and nuts against undesired
3 loosening, the locking element comprising ~~at least~~ two annular lock
4 washers lying on each other and having center holes, wherein the
5 washers having inner [[sur]] faces lying on each other [[have]] and
6 provided with teeth and [[the]] outer faces [[are]] turned away
7 from each other and also provided with teeth, characterized in that
8 at least one of the washers being formed at the respective center
9 hole (14) has on the respective outer face with a rounding [[(6)]]
10 or a groove (24) one the inner face that is provided with teeth.

1 2. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly
2 according to claim 1, characterized in that the tooth wherein edges
3 [[(8)]] of the tooth flanks (7) teeth of the inner faces are
4 oriented off-radial.

1 3. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, characterized in that wherein the [[tooth]] edges [[(8)]]
3 of the tooth flanks (7) teeth of the inner faces are V-shaped.

1 4. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, characterized in that wherein the [[tooth]] edges [[(8)]]
3 of the tooth flanks (7) teeth of the inner faces are U-shaped.

1 5. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the [[tooth]] edges [[(8)]]
3 of the tooth flanks (7) teeth of the inner faces are S-shaped.

4 6. (currently amended) The locking element, possibly
5 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the edges of
6 the teeth of the outer faces [[(5)]] have a non-radial direction.

1 7. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the edges of the teeth of
3 the outer faces [[(5)]] have a curvature.

1 8. (currently amended) The locking element, ~~possibly~~
2 according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that further comprising a~~
3 sleeve connecting the lock washers (1, 2) ~~are connected to each~~
4 ~~other by means of a sleeve~~ (16, 21).

1 9. (currently amended) The locking element according to
2 claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sleeve [[(21)]] is
3 disposed on inner surfaces of the center holes [[(14)]].

1 10. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sleeve [[(16)]] is
3 disposed on outer surfaces of the lock washers (1, 2).

11. (canceled)

1 12. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve (16, 21) has a
3 lip that laterally extends over or into an edge of the lock washers
4 (1, 2).

1 13. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip is annular.

1 14. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lip is formed by
3 tabs [(18)].

1 15. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the tabs are lip is
3 formed by annular segments [(17)].

1 16. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve is a slotted
3 ring.

1 17. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transition between the
3 sleeve {16, 21} and the lip has a rounding [[and/]] or a chamfer.

1 18. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a transition between the
3 sleeve and the lip is ~~designed~~ perpendicular.

1 19. (currently amended) The locking element according
2 to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lock washers have a
3 groove {22, 23} for receiving the lip.